

With all of the laws Congress has enacted to restore and protect the Great Lakes, I was stunned to learn of British Petroleum's (BP) plans to increase pollution discharged into Lake Michigan as part of its new expansion of an oil refinery in Whiting. The State of Indiana made a terrible mistake and issued a permit to BP, allowing them to dump 54% more ammonia and 35% more sludge into our drinking water. BP is one of the most profitable companies in the world, yet they claimed that they did not have the space to treat the pollution. This is unacceptable.

I authored a letter with Representative Dan Lipinski (D-IL) to the Chief Executive of BP strongly urging him to reconsider the destructive policy. I also sent a letter, along with nineteen other Members of Congress, to the Environmental Protection Agency urging a formal review of the discharge permit issued by Indiana. And last week, Congress formally condemned BP and Indiana for degrading our Lakes. I will continue to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and Mayor Daley to put a stop to the increased dumping. BP has spent millions of dollars to portray itself as environmentally friendly, but we now know what BP really stands for: Bad Polluter.